

Judy Grahm:

The Pursuit of Life's Work



Sue Costa

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Ellen Shub

**Harry Britt
vs.
Nancy Pelosi:
*Down and Dirty
for the 5th
Congressional Seat***



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Race for the 5th Congressional seat

Britt's Run: Reaping Unity or Acrimony?

By Chris Bull

SAN FRANCISCO — Harry Britt's candidacy for the Fifth Congressional District has united the local gay and lesbian community to an unprecedented degree. At the same time, however, it has highlighted tensions in the community and raised serious questions about the gay City Supervisor's leadership ability and campaign strategy.

As the April 7 special election to replace the late Sala Burton nears, clashes continue to break out between gay men and lesbians, between business and consumer interests and between progressive and moderate factions in the community.

The district has prided itself for being one of the most progressive in the country, with strong support for environmental preservation, civil rights, economic justice and a liberal foreign policy. The rise of the gay community, which comprises as much as 25 percent of the district, has pushed the district even farther in this direction, farther apparently than the state Democratic Party leaders would like. For example, Mayor Dianne Feinstein has been quoted as saying that Britt "was too liberal" to represent the district.

The long-time power-brokers of the Democratic Party in Northern California, including state legislators Willie Brown and Leo McCarthy, have backed Nancy Pelosi, a Democratic Party activist and fundraiser who has never held elected office. Britt, the only other serious candidate for the seat, was

appointed to the Board of Supervisors after Harvey Milk was assassinated in 1978. A recent San Francisco *Examiner* poll has Pelosi in front by about ten percentage points.

The campaign has developed along insider vs. outsider lines. Pelosi promises to use her connections within the Democratic Party to help the gay and lesbian community while Britt claims to represent the "true" coalitions of the district, untainted by ties to party power and money which he feels are used to exclude the gay and lesbian community.

The debate over who can best represent the community has become increasingly personal and has often degenerated into open hostility. Pelosi, for her part, has attempted to distance herself from the controversy, and according to detractors, refuses to take specific stands on sensitive issues within the gay and lesbian community. Her lack of a track record on issues facing voters makes it impossible to determine how she would function in Congress, say critics.

The controversy surrounding the campaign has often overshadowed the issues. Although both candidates agree on most issues, Pelosi is often described as a liberal with strong ties to the Democratic Party and Britt as a progressive, more comfortable with alternative parties such as the Democratic Socialists of America.

Pelosi has been an important fundraiser for candidates friendly

to the gay community and even helped Britt get elected to the Board of Supervisors. However, she has waffled on important issues such as aid to the Duarte government in El Salvador and the docking of the nuclear submarine, the Missouri, in the San Francisco harbor.

Even Britt's many critics agree that he has an outstanding voting record, and a strong commitment

to grass roots politics. In 1965, he took part in civil rights marches in the South.

Britt told *GCN*, "My campaign comes directly out of a network of progressive groups, while Nancy is just a convenient candidate for the mainstream. The idea that we must somehow be connected to the party is homophobic. Harvey Milk's message was to rely on our own power. I resent the claim that

their power is effective and ours ineffective. Every environmental group, the majority of local labor, local politicians, tenants groups and gay people support me. These people are what really constitute the district."

However, *Coming Up!*, a generally progressive Bay Area gay and lesbian paper, endorsed Pelosi for Congress while sharply criticizing

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How long before AIDS treatments are approved?

NY Protesters Rip FDA

By Kim Westheimer

NEW YORK — Nearly 600 people demonstrated on Wall Street to protest the inavailability of drugs which may help people with AIDS. Seventeen people were arrested for blocking traffic at the March 24 demonstration.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA), which must approve drugs before they can be made available to the public, was the main target of the protest. AZT, which has apparently prolonged the life of some people with AIDS and has some potentially dangerous side effects, is the only AIDS-related drug approved by the FDA. It is now being made available at \$188 a bottle, or nearly \$10,000 a year for ongoing treatment. Since the demonstration, the FDA has agreed to conduct studies on AL721 and Ampligen, two of the drugs protesters said



Demonstrators at Wall St. sit-in, NY, March 24.

should be made widely available.

Eight drugs believed to be safer than AZT have yet to be approved by the FDA, according to gay activist Larry Kramer. In a March 23 New York *Times* op ed piece, Kramer wrote, "Doctors wishing to test them [the eight drugs] have shown me the thick protocols they have submitted to the F.D.A., only to have them returned again and again with petty requests for the rewriting of one sentence, or the reversal of the order of several sentences or the elimination of two words."

Michael Petrelis, a person with AIDS who was arrested at the protest and a member of the Lavender Hill Mob activist group, expressed anger that he cannot obtain AL721. AL721, which has been tested at the Weizman Institute in Israel, is derived from egg yolks and lecithin. The substance, which is thought to be non-toxic, has stopped the AIDS virus from attaching itself to the body's T-cells and thereby provided extra energy for PWAs, said Petrelis.

Petrelis said he was impressed with the level of cooperation in the New York lesbian and gay community evidenced by the quick organization of the demonstration. The protest was set up in less than three weeks by an ad hoc group called Act Up, following a speech by Kramer at the New York Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center. According to Kramer, Act Up will continue AIDS-related organizing, possibly including an action at an early June Washington, D.C., AIDS conference for scientists worldwide. People who want to get involved in the June action can contact Act Up c/o the Lavender Hill Mob, 496A Hudson St., Suite G19, New York, New York 10014.

Kramer said he sees "a lot of

anger and frustration firing up the community. [We] don't know what to do with all that anger. I don't know where all this is going to go [but] a lot of good feelings were generated at the Wall Street demonstration."

Petrelis said he is encouraged that "finally people are realizing we've got to be arrested. We've got to make [those in power] uncomfortable to save our lives." However, he said he regretted that marshalls for the demonstration discouraged other people from joining those who were blocking traffic. "The marshalls had been negotiating with the police [and made it clear] that just a small number of pre-trained people should be arrested. [But] if thirty more people wanted to get arrested it would have created more of a tie-up. That's what should have been." Petrelis expressed concern that "gay leaders" were holding back the crowd's anger.

—filed from Boston



Protesters block traffic on Broadway, NY, March 24.

"Repugnant, but not obscene"

Ontario Court Overturns Ban on Joy of Gay Sex

By Stephanie Poggi

TORONTO — *The Joy of Gay Sex* may be repugnant to heterosexuals, but it is not obscene, according to a March 20 ruling by the District Court of Ontario.

The decision handed down by Judge Bruce Hawkins ends a ban on the book enforced by Canada Customs since last April (See *GCN*, Vol 14, No. 27). The ban was based on Customs' determination that depictions or descriptions of "buggery" — anal sex — violates Canada's obscenity legislation.

Hawkins stated that Customs had misinterpreted the obscenity law, which states that materials may be prohibited if their dominant characteristic is the "undue exploitation of sex, or of sex and any one or more of the following subjects, namely crime, horror, cruelty and violence."

According to Hawkins, "[*The Joy of Gay Sex*] deals rationally and unsensationally with the sexual practices of a substantial segment of the male population.

"However repugnant the concept of anal sex may be to the heterosexual observer, it is, I find, the central sexual act of homosexual practice. To write about homosexual practices without dealing with anal intercourse would be equivalent to writing a history of music and omitting Mozart."

Hawkin's ruling appears to effectively deny other prohibitions by Customs based on the equation of anal sex and obscenity. Representatives of Toronto's Glad Day Bookshop, which brought Customs to court on *The Joy of Gay Sex* ban, expressed guarded optimism that the decision will halt seizures of at least some gay/lesbian material bound for Canada. "The effect will be that that part of the guidelines Customs uses to stop gay

books depicting or describing anal sex can no longer be justified," said Charles Campbell, lawyer for Glad Day.

"But the only test is in the pudding," said Jearld Moldenhauer, owner of Glad Day. "We've signaled for shipment from various sources — of both magazines and books. We'll just have to see what they do."

Campbell added that other aspects of Customs interpretation of obscenity law, including guidelines barring descriptions or depictions of dildoes, submission, bondage, spanking, display of fecal matter, etc. are used to censor gay/lesbian material.

Hawkins did not rule on the part of the suit charging that the obscenity law and the interpretations of it in the Customs Tariff Act violate constitutional guarantees of equality and freedom of expression.

Even more alarming, said Campbell, is a proposed amendment in Parliament to the obscenity legislation. Drafts of the amendment show an effort to prohibit depictions of "anything that shows sexual connection: oral, genital, animals and people," and even heterosexual intercourse, said Campbell. On the other hand, the proposed revision appears to loosen up restrictions against sexually explicit writing. Campbell said the proposed changes are the subject of "great debate in the country. The writers are up in arms." A vote on the amendment is not yet scheduled.

In the meantime, gay activists face a new dilemma — whether to continue to fight current censorship by Customs or to reserve their energy for fighting enactment of the law.

—filed from Boston

News Notes

quote of the week

"I feel sorry for male homosexuals who were dealt more feminine genes than they need, and angry and somewhat repulsed by those who choose homosexuality for kicks."

—CBS commentator *Andy Rooney*, responding to a letter from *Alan L. Light of Moline, Ill.*, criticizing Rooney for a Feb. 10 column he wrote about the death of *Liberace*, according to the weekly news of *Miami*.

report on aids ed. for people of color

WASHINGTON, DC — The National AIDS Network has released its report on "AIDS Education and Support Services to Minorities: A Survey of Community Based AIDS Services Providers." The report was compiled by Gilberto Gerald, Director of Minority Affairs for the National AIDS Network.

"Minorities with AIDS are victims of a health care system that has always put minorities at a great disadvantage, as documented in the federal government's Report of the Secretary's Task Force on Black and Minority Health (Jan. '86). This creates a very bleak picture for the future of the minority community with respect to the AIDS crisis," says Gerald. "A Black woman is 13 times more likely than a white woman to contract AIDS. There is a desperate need for risk-reduction information targeted at minority communities."

Copies of the report can be obtained by sending \$25 to the National AIDS Network, 1012 14th St. N.W., Suite 601, Washington, D.C. 20005.

* * *

national aids network awards grants

WASHINGTON, DC — The National AIDS Network (NAN) has awarded grants to 18 community-based AIDS service organizations. The grants will fund programs that provide direct services to People with AIDS. Funds for the grants were provided by the Stamp Out AIDS program.

The Stamp Out AIDS awards help to fund programs like the "Stone Soup" pantry at the AIDS Foundation in Houston. The pantry was created to supplement the dietary needs of PWAs because of the limited SSI/SSD available in Texas. Over 50 PWAs use this program on a regular basis. The grant will help fund the purchase of a large commercial cooler so that the pantry can increase the availability of perishable foodstuffs. One client stated, "I only get \$17 a month in food stamps and I can't buy dog food for that. If it hadn't been for the food bank, I would have starved."

Applications for the next funding cycle are due May 12, 1987. Only AIDS service organizations may apply for these grants. For further information and grant applications, please contact Paul Kawata at (202) 347-0390.

—Stephanie Poggi

'lewd behavior' on the marina green

SAN FRANCISCO — Police have arrested 56 men for allegedly soliciting sex or engaging in "lewd behavior" at a public restroom on the Marina Green, a public area on San Francisco Bay.

According to the *Advocate*, police say that two teachers, two retired army officers, and many "affluent" people were among those arrested.

All 56 men, who were arrested over a three-week period in December, were ordered to appear in court. According to local observers, however, it is quite unlikely that any of the alleged offenders will be prosecuted.

— Martin Heggstad

ride the lesbian/gay train

BOSTON — Local lesbians and gay men planning to join the April 25 Washington D.C. March for Justice and Peace in Central America and Southern Africa can catch a train from Boston on April 24 at 9:30 p.m. The train will include a lesbian and gay car and a women's car. For more information call Cathy at (617) 354-2169.

—Kim Westheimer

red sox fans won't drink coors

BOSTON — Coors beer will no longer be sold at Fenway Park, home of the Boston Red Sox baseball team. The move to ban Coors came as a result of negotiations between openly gay City Councillor David Scondras, Fenway Park management, and labor union representatives.

The management of Coors beer, which is accused of being racist, homophobic and anti-Semitic, is the target of an ongoing nationwide boycott. "Boston baseball fans should not be subsidizing a terrorist war in Central America," said Scondras, referring to the Coors' family funding of contras. "Nor should they help support a family that is dedicated to attacking the rights of gay people, Blacks, women and unions."

"Councillor Scondras has shown that together working people, gay people, and all those struggling for social justice can win," said Dominic Bozzotto, head of Local 26 of the Hotel and Restaurant Employees Union. Bozzotto urged activists in other cities to investigate beer sales in their local sports parks and arenas to see if Coors is being sold.

—Kim Westheimer

in honor of sage

BOSTON — A day has been named in honor of one of the co-founders of the New York City-based SAGE (Senior Action in a Gay Environment).

On March 25, the Boston City Council passed a resolution to make that day Chris Almvig day. The resolution commended SAGE for its services to older lesbians and gay men as well as its nationwide consultation services.

The resolution was filed by gay City Councillor, David Scondras.

—Kim Westheimer



SAN FRANCISCO — Demonstrators at Harvey Milk Plaza protest KQED's pledge drive on March 14, charging the public station is homophobic. (See GCN, Vol. 14, No. 32) From left, two gay Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, Cheryl Rosenthal of Gay Cable TV, and Miss Media Bias (Gilbert Baker). Efforts to negotiate a change in programming policy and personnel at KQED appear to be at a standstill.

—Stephanie Poggi

chronicle won't include lovers' names in obits

SAN FRANCISCO — The San Francisco *Chronicle* has announced that it will no longer list the names of surviving lovers in death notices, according to the *Advocate*.

The editors have stated that, following "objections by relatives when non-relatives were listed as survivors," the paper will now publish only the names of immediate blood relatives and legal spouses.

Openly gay reporter Randy Shilts said he was surprised by the announcement, which restates an already existing but frequently disregarded policy of the newspaper. Shilts noted that he has included the names of gay survivors "in more obituaries than I can count" over the past few years.

—Martin Heggstad

swiss lesbians win court battle

GENEVA — Three of the organizers for last year's International Lesbian Conference have been acquitted of police charges of demonstrating without a permit.

According to *Outwrite* of London, the women had organized a demonstration for lesbians' right to political asylum. When summoned to court on the charges, they argued that police were attempting to limit their freedom of expression. The court acquitted the lesbian organizers, and instructed Swiss police to pay all court costs incurred by the three women.

—Stephanie Poggi

fat feminist conference

NORWALK, CT — The "Fat Feminist Conference" convened here over the weekend of March 25, 26, according to the *New York Times*.

Sponsored by the National Association to Aid Fat Americans, which was formed in 1969 to fight discrimination against fat people, the event drew 40 women. All of the women described discrimination against them, including denial of employment based on their weight. Others spoke of addiction to amphetamines — drugs which supposedly promote weight loss — of endless, useless dieting, constant ridicule and of enduring dangerous operations such as stomach stapling.

However, many women said "fat" is no longer a dirty word to them. After years of obsessing about their weight and feeling ashamed of their appearance, they have grown to appreciate their bodies. Some said they would no longer choose to be thin, even if they could be so without pain, overnight. "I'm very enthusiastic about being fat," said Ruby Greenwald of Delmar, NY, "I was meant to be fat." Susan Mason, who had her stomach stapled five years ago, resulting in weight loss and a number of infections, said she finally came to realize there was nothing wrong with being fat. "Being fat is part of who I am," she said.

—Stephanie Poggi

pwa arrested for 'spreading' aids

BONN, West Germany — A retired U.S. Army Sergeant who has AIDS has been arrested in the Bavarian city of Nuremberg for allegedly spreading the disease to sexual partners, according to the *New York Times*.

The man, who is said to be bisexual, was working as a cook. His name has not been revealed, nor is it known whether he practiced safer sex with his partners, or whether the partners became infected with HIV.

He has been charged with causing "bodily harm" to others, and could face a five-year prison sentence. This is the first time someone has been arrested in West Germany for allegedly spreading AIDS.

— Martin Heggstad

gay advocate for mass. a.g.

BOSTON — The State Attorney General's office has hired an advocate to focus on lesbian and gay, elderly and health care issues.

Ray Gottwald, president of the gay and lesbian Bay State Democratic Club, was hired as Special Assistant for Community Outreach by Attorney General James Shannon last month. Gottwald formerly served as Grants Manager at Boston's Department of Elder Affairs.

Gottwald said he expects to "serve as a link between organizations and advocacy groups to make sure [their] positions are heard in the administration." In addition, Gottwald is planning to develop educational forums to let people know what the Attorney General's office does.

Gottwald said he has already begun to work against HIV testing by insurance companies and for the lesbian and gay rights bill.

—Kim Westheimer

news notes compiled by stephanie poggi

Britt's Run: Reaping Unity or Acrimony?

Continued from page 1

ing Britt in a story titled, "The Trouble With Harry." The author of the story, *Coming Up!* editor Kim Corsaro, claims that the paper has been the victim of attacks perpetuated by supporters of Britt since the story first appeared in the March issue.

A cartoon in the San Francisco *Sentinel*, a gay paper in San Francisco, labeled Corsaro "that incredible cow woman, visible by virtue of her incredible hulk," in response to her criticism of Britt.

Corsaro believes that the Britt

campaign, as well as the gay male community supporting him, has exhibited misogynist overtones. "Harry has always been in the middle of community divisions. . . . The sexism unleashed in his name has been unbelievable. They are treating Nancy as a rich bitch who has never held a job in her life after she has done so much. This sexism approaches the level of anti-Semitism that came out of Farrakhan's mouth." Corsaro said that 2,000 copies of *Coming Up!* have been stolen, advertisers

threatened and writers harassed as a result of her criticism of Britt.

The *Coming Up!* editorial, a story by New York *Native* writer Ron Baker, "Hope or Hoax for the Gay Community," and several other sources in the community have questioned Britt's competence and integrity. The critics cite a poor leadership record on the Board of Supervisors and in the community. They say that he has failed on several important issues, such as enacting a domestic partners' bill and stopping the closing

of local bathhouses. Furthermore, say the critics, he has undermined the rise of other gay politicians and "sold out" to conservative interests for votes.

For example, they cite the case of San Francisco mayoral candidate John Molinari. Molinari, an admitted friend of the downtown development interests that Britt has long opposed, allegedly swapped an endorsement of Britt for Congress in return for Britt's support of his race for Mayor. Britt is thus accused of abandoning his al-

ly and long-time friend of the gay and lesbian community, Art Agnos, who he had been encouraging to run for Mayor. In an interview at the Democratic Socialists of America Office in Boston, Britt told *GCN* these allegations are "stupid" and that he would rather focus on the real issues of the campaign.

Despite the criticism, the San Francisco community has been re-

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Employer Found Guilty of Bias against PWA

By Kim Westheimer

BOSTON — The Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination (MCAD) has ruled in favor of a man who said his employer prevented him from returning to work because he has AIDS.

On March 17, MCAD Commissioner Franklin Hurst declared that there was sufficient evidence to determine that the Worcester County Institution for Savings discriminated against Steven Dutil on the basis of a perceived handicap. MCAD spokesperson Judith Wright said Dutil, who had told bank employees he had AIDS, was informed in November of last year that he could not return to work, despite his doctor's insistence that he was able to work. The bank, which offered Dutil medical coverage and full pay, also refused

to let Dutil work from his home. Bank spokespeople were not available for comment.

On November 21, Dutil met with the company vice-president who "informed him he would not be allowed to return to work because there were too many unknown risks in transmission," said Wright. He was told that the bank president had made the decision. Dutil later met with the president, who informed him he "would be a risk to employees because he had AIDS."

Dutil could not be reached for comment.

Within 90 days following Hurst's ruling, the bank must come to an agreement with Dutil, or the case will be sent to a public hearing before a judge. "This is in

conciliation," said Wright. "It's not at a stalemate. People are talking." Boston's Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAD) are representing Dutil in the conciliation process.

While MCAD has previously stated that AIDS discrimination would be covered by state handicap law, this is the first time the commission has made a ruling on such a case. Eleven other AIDS discrimination cases have been filed with MCAD. Two of them, including the case of Paul Cronan, a telephone company employee who regained his job following an out-of-court settlement, have been heard in court. Five other cases are still under active investigation and the remainder were settled before a finding was made.

Most people who have been discriminated against because they have AIDS do not pursue legal cases against their employers, according to Denise McWilliams, director of GLAD's AIDS Law Project. In the past six months, six people have approached GLAD with complaints, and only two, including Dutil, have followed through with their cases. "My sense is they don't [follow through] due to a variety of reasons — time, inclination and lack of resources an individual might think is necessary," said McWilliams.

"Dealing with AIDS is dealing with perceived social stigma. People need time to adapt and people often don't feel very well."

McWilliams said MCAD filed Dutil's complaint with unprecedented speed. Dutil filed his complaint in January of this year. "It's not uncommon for employers to say 'Go ahead [file a complaint with MCAD] — three years down the line we'll deal with it,'" said McWilliams. "I think the MCAD sent the word out to employers that they're not going to have the luxury of delaying [AIDS discrimination cases]."

Boston Police Discuss Recruiting Gay Officers

By Nancy De Luca

BOSTON — Representatives of the Boston Police Department met March 30 with members of the Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance to discuss recruitment of lesbian and gay police officers and police response to anti-gay violence. Among the speakers were Captain Donald Devine, who serves as the police liaison to the gay and lesbian community, and Sergeant William Johnston of the Community Disorders Unit (CDU). This unit has recently been active in broadening the interpretation of

gonna hear snickering wherever you go," but that the department is primarily concerned about professionalism, not about sexual preference.

Devine personally didn't see any advantage in having openly gay officers on the force, and turned the issue over to the audience by asking them, "Why don't the gay officers come out?" Members of the Alliance reported that they know of several gay men and lesbians who have scored well on the entrance exam, and hope to become

chic to harass people of color or those who believe in a certain religion, but it is considered okay to make fun of gays and lesbians," Johnston reversed himself. He said a rule prohibiting homophobic acts should be spelled out, and pledged to bring the issue before the police commissioner. Johnston also agreed to speak with the commissioner in an effort to gain statewide support and endorsements from police departments for the Massachusetts lesbian and gay rights bill.

Both Devine and Johnston stressed the importance of reporting all homophobic attacks to the police department, and praised the work of the Alliance in getting the community to come forward. The Public Safety Committee of the Alliance, formed last November, has been involved in documenting incidents of homophobic attacks, and has been working with the police department on recruitment of openly gay/lesbian officers, and the preparation of training materials about anti-gay violence for officers and cadets. Anyone interested in working on any aspect of violence directed toward the gay/lesbian community can attend the next meeting of the Public Safety Committee, April 9 at 7 p.m. at 7 Columbus Square.

"I don't think my being straight offends anyone in the [Boston Police] department."

—Capt. Devine, police liaison to the gay community

Massachusetts civil rights law to include protection of gay men and lesbians from homophobic attacks.

In regard to recruitment of openly gay and lesbian officers, Capt. Devine stated that efforts will be made to publicize the next police examination, which will occur sometime next year, "to the total community." The recruitment process typically includes speaking engagements at universities and social gatherings, the distribution of brochures in areas populated by people of color and advertisements in newspapers. Devine said the department would place ads in *GCN* and *Bay Windows* and attend community events to encourage gay men and lesbians to apply.

When asked if he feels limited in his role as liaison because he's "straight-identified," Devine responded, "I don't think my being straight offends anyone in the department," and that he does not see it as an interference.

Questions from the audience focused largely on harassment of gay officers within the department and training officers to deal with gay and lesbian citizens and fellow officers.

When asked if there was institutionalized homophobia within the department which keeps gay and lesbian officers from coming out, Devine stressed the personal nature of anyone's decision to come out in their workplace. He said he did not see a link between the lack of openly gay/lesbian officers and possible homophobia or lack of support within the department. When asked if he thought such a gay officer might experience hostility, Devine said, "No, you're

Boston's first openly gay and lesbian officers.

Sergeant Johnston appeared to have a stronger sense of the role openly gay officers could have in the community. Stating he would personally support such officers, he said, "Of course it makes a difference [to have such officers on the force]."

Johnston described a current case in Roxbury court which could change a one-year misdemeanor to a ten-year felony should homophobic attacks be considered a civil rights violation. The general orders given to officers currently instruct them to include attacks based on sexual orientation as such a violation.

Johnston described his previous experience as a decoy with the Tactical Patrol Force as a way in which he became sensitized to violence against the gay community. Over the course of several years, he was robbed 900 times, but was physically assaulted only when he was seen coming out of what was perceived to be a gay bar. Stressing the violence exhibited toward, and not by gays, he said, "on detail in a gay bar, I thought it was a night off and a night out. No one ever bothered me until I went outside."

When questioned about including a specific clause in police Rules and Regulations prohibiting homophobic remarks and actions by officers, both Johnston and Devine said such a rule was unnecessary. They stated that an act of this type would be considered "unprofessional behavior" or misconduct, and would be treated in the same way as a racist remark or act. When a woman in the audience responded that it is "no longer

Ark. Students Lose Bias Suit

By Diana Woodall

FAYETTEVILLE, AR — A federal judge ruled March 23 that the University of Arkansas did not violate the rights of the Gay and Lesbian Student Association (GLSA) in denying them funding.

GLSA took the University to court after Vice-Chancellor of Student Services Lyle Gohn refused to overturn the student senate's decision to deny funding to the group in 1985. (See *GCN*, Vol 14, No. 29) GLSA was the only student group that met all funding criteria to be denied funds. The suit sought protection from future discrimination, but did not file for damages.

Judge H. Franklin Waters affirmed that GLSA has a right to be recognized as a student organization and as such cannot be denied use of campus buildings and bulletin boards, but said, "The courts have stopped short of including the right to receive funding as one of the associated rights due campus organizations."

Judge Waters found that "the University and the student government have a legitimate interest in distributing the funds in a manner that is beneficial to the campus as a whole.... The denial [of funds] did not infringe on GLSA's rights but merely represented a decision by the [student] senate not to affirma-

tively aid GLSA." And although he recognized that the issue of funding denial was and is an ongoing controversy, he dismissed the suit "with prejudice," meaning it can never be tried again, if for example, GLSA is denied funding again in 1988.

Waters added that "although it has been frequently advanced in the last several decades, homosexuals have not been determined to be a suspect class." In legal terms, a "suspect class" is one which the courts have recognized to be the object of discrimination. Because gay people are not considered a suspect class, Waters was not required to apply "strict scrutiny" to determine if discrimination had occurred, but only had to find that the university had a "rational basis" for its actions.

Linda Lovell, legal coordinator and past president of GLSA, commented, "We've now been given the opening to [appeal to] St. Louis [Eighth Circuit Court] which is where we wanted to go in the first place." Current GLSA co-chair Laurie Morstad called the ruling "dangerous," noting that Judge Waters cited the Georgia sodomy decision of last June in support of the concept that homosexuals can be treated differently from other groups.

Dems. Consider Outreach to Lesbian/Gay Delegates

By Kim Westheimer

BOSTON — The Democratic State Committee is considering a proposal to recruit gay men and lesbians as delegates to the 1988 Democratic national convention.

A similar proposal was rejected by the Democratic Committee in 1985.

This year's proposal, put forth by the state's delegate selection committee, is based on a national model released earlier this year by the Democratic Party, according to James Roosevelt, chair of that committee. It has a greater chance of ratification by the Democratic Committee, said Roosevelt, because unlike the 1985 proposal, it does not amend the Committee's charter to make lesbians and gay men a permanent target group.

Target groups in the charter, including women, Blacks and Latinos, are recruited through a formal affirmative action plan. While affirmative action would not apply to gay people under this year's proposal, the Committee would publicize the delegate selection

process and instruct members to take sexual orientation into account when voting for delegates, said Roosevelt. Getting the word out to the lesbian and gay community would be accomplished by sending press releases to lesbian and gay newspapers. "We don't have money to take out ads," noted Roosevelt.

Reaction to the proposal, which is in a public comment period, has been mixed, said Roosevelt. There have been more positive than negative reactions, but the margin between the two is small. A common negative response is that the proposal could affect the success of the Democratic ticket nationwide. The Democratic Committee will vote on the proposal on April 5.

Ray Gottwald, of the lesbian and gay Bay State Democratic Club, said he was pleased with the proposal. The Bay State Democratic Club, which was officially recognized by the Democratic Committee in December of last year, will urge openly lesbian and

gay people to run as delegates. The proposal has a good chance of winning, said Gottwald, because "the Bay State Group has been visible in the party and working closely with them [over the past year]."

Tony Watson, of the Boston Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance, expressed concern that this was an attempt by the Dukakis administration and supporters to "snuggle up" to the lesbian and gay community. Dukakis, who has recently announced his presidential candidacy, has received extensive criticism from the gay community for his role in enacting a foster care policy which discriminates against lesbians and gay men.

"If this is a way of saying we still include you in the party, forget it," said Watson. "This is not enough, not enough for me. It's like saying you can still ride the bus, but ride in the back."

Community Voices

A Moving Thank You

Well, we're moved, and we couldn't have done it without you. We can't possibly thank you all by name (some of you were simply sweet faces briefly passing through), but you know who you are: hard-working, devoted, fun dykes and fags who donated from an evening to a week, getting us through it all by:

painting
driving
sweeping/cleaning
supplying munchies/ and tunes
building
packing
lending cars and trucks
hiking up and down stairs
motivating
donating money
helping to stall the eviction
(we won't mention the overzealous volunteers who accidentally snipped the phone wires and alarm system of our new neighbors)

And while we're at it, kudos to the performers, producers and attendees of **LE GAY CABARET: An Evening of Lesbian & Gay Entertainment**, Sat. March 14th. A wonderful time was had by all (especially one GCN staffer who noted the unusual occurrence of radical and explicitly sexual gay men and lesbians sharing a stage!). We raised \$4,858.22, a sum which did much to relieve the burden of moving, and demonstrated that our community can support itself and can have a blast doing it!

long time passing appropriate

Dear GCN:

I am one of the women who was privileged to tell my story in *Long Time Passing: Lives of Older Lesbians*. I believe that the book review by Cynthia Rich is full of erroneous assumptions and incorrect generalizations. I trust there will be many rebuttals to it.

It seems to me that Rich is still pretty much obsessed with her war against ageism and that she may have chosen this medium to again agitate for that cause, a cause she and Barbara McDonald directed their attention to in the book *Look Me in the Eye*. I do not think that the main theme of *Long Time Passing* is ageism, not should it be. Perhaps the book title should have left out the word "Older."

Marcy Adelman is not a gerontologist and she didn't claim to be. She is a therapist and was very supportive and helpful to me in the telling of my story. In these oral histories of some of we women who are no longer young, "passing" may not have been our only concern, but it pretty obviously was one of our concerns and I for one find the title appropriate.

I do not feel that the book demeans me because I am over 70, and since it was not written exclusively for old lesbians, the inclusion of advice to younger lesbians is not inappropriate. At any rate, the younger woman I live with appreciated the added material very much.

Mary Flick
San Francisco, CA

hard for prisoners to be friends/lovers

Dear GCN:

Many times while enjoying my issues of GCN I desired to comply with your appeal as to why it is seemingly difficult for gay/lesbian prisoners to be friends/lovers with each other. However, so much of a combination of happiness and sadness has been going on in my life, not to mention my struggles with college, that, perhaps selfishly, I just never took the time to assist in your call.

My life here in prison of late has been one gigantic roller coaster ride of ups and downs. Oftentimes finding myself with feelings of extreme loneliness and depression, I reached out to others who'd know and could relate to those feelings. What better people to reach out to than my brothers and sisters in prison. I've written numerous people through the penpal section and got varied responses. One of those I'm still writing to is a lesbian prisoner in Nevada. We found common interests in many areas, including that we are both single parents, but otherwise alone. No real family or outside friends from our youths to speak of. So as our correspondence increased we began to cling to each other and be protective. Besides our children, she became to me the only family I had.

During our correspondence, without thinking, I sent her something that almost got her in trouble with the administration of her prison and made her a bit upset with me. Although she was justifiably angry, I never got the impression that she would not write again.

I wrote her, apologizing for my thoughtlessness and have written her four times since, but to this date still haven't heard from her. Then, upon receiving a recent issue of GCN I noticed she had a penpal ad, specifying 'No males'. Like a slap in the face, this ad struck me directly in the heart and I cried from the very moment I saw it until I finally fell asleep at some time after 3am. My real love for her is the type of love one would have for a brother or sister. She knew from the very beginning that I'm a male-female pre-operative transsexual, which obviously didn't bother her since we have been writing for over a year.

But, what has this got to do with your question as to "why are gay/lesbian prisoners so often unwilling to be friends/lovers?"

Well, like any other prisoner, gay, lesbian, and transsexual prisoners NEED support. Some of us become so desperate that we inflate the images of ourselves to those outside, just to be or feel this support (or love). After much rejection from those on the outside, who don't take the time to

understand our position, but instead listen to the 1 out of 10 stories of having been used by a prisoner in some way, we turn to each other, and *sometimes* out of bitterness, play vicious head games. Or out of hurt take out our frustrations upon each other. And then, prison life isn't very different from the struggles in the (so-called) free world ... except our confrontations with the phobias and other evils are more intense. Death's spirit is literally an ever present reality here, more constant and frightening everyday than outside; and though I need the comforts of a human being, whether in or out of prison, do you think another prisoner wants to be reminded of these ills and evils? Others, like myself, might form a bond with a prisoner in another prison, but then if something happens to that friend we become very frustrated and feel desperately helpless when we're unable to be *right there* for our friend in their time of need.

And in our own prisons, there are the frustrations and cattiness of "part-time" gays and lesbians. You try not to get involved with these types, but sometimes you do. Then, after the promises of eternal devotion (theirs), they're released, and you never hear from them, or maybe once or twice. This is what my friend went through, and I had a picture of her lover here. When I heard about it, all I could think of was that this bitch hurt my sister. I was hurt. I was angry. I cried a lot for my sister. I wanted to hurt R. (my friend's lover). But all I could do was angrily burn the picture my friend had sent me of R. hoping R. could feel the heat; and then I absent-mindedly sent the ashes to my friend to share with her how I felt, not meaning to get her in trouble. But in so doing I forgot every prison correspondence office opens incoming mail for possible contraband and the administration there had a glorified shit-fit upon discovering these ashes in a separate envelope to which I'd labeled "Corpse of a dead person inside."

Compile all of this and you'll see that prison life is a constant struggle. Friendships are often very difficult, surviving rarely, precious and cherished when real.

Can you understand my confusion and pain? Thank you for your question and your listening to my working out my response (for the moment). Vastoria January
c/o Keith Tyler, 81A 3981
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Attica, NY 14011

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(Phone number is the same.) Come by if you're in the neighborhood and see our lavender space!

such chutzpah in long time review

Dear GCN:

I am one of the contributors to *Long Time Passing: Lives of Older Lesbians*. I was astonished at the carping in Ms. Rich's book review printed recently in GCN (Vol. 14, No. 30).

Such chutzpah emerging from the mind of the reviewer, a woman of 54 who feels she has floated up to the plateaus of lesbians! She scratches her pen in fury about several things in the book, particularly the use of the word "older." Ms. Rich says flatly that the category of "older" is vague, "as if there were no difference between 50 and 80...the term 'older' is a euphemism which creates confusion." She suggests use of the word "old," but does not make any clearer distinction between women 60, 70 or 80 years old. And there is a difference, Ms. Rich! I know because I am 70.

Ms. Rich raises a hue and cry because this book was researched, nurtured over a period of years, and compiled by Marcy Adelman, a mere babe of 40, who also has the affrontery to announce her doctorate. Why should she speak for older lesbians, Ms. Rich cries out, insisting that when Adelman does, she and her other younger professional friends are merely being patronizing.

I find these criticism irrelevant, to say the least, and at best insulting. The issue is clear. The book is the story of struggle, pain, confusion, isolation of women who grew up in the '30s, '40s and '50s and felt their closest, most loving feelings were with other women. They had the courage to dig into the wells of their earlier experiences, think deeply about themselves, and through the printed word communicate their stories. These stories are flesh and blood on the skeleton of academic information and statistics. Read the introduction, Ms. Rich! Marcy Adelman spent five or six years interviewing, giving patiently of her time and talents so that the 22 women in the book are eased out of their closets and speak their own voices. Now other women who read the book can respond with a sense of wonder, a sense of relief.

I found my own experience in writing about events in my life a painful process. I know this was true of many of the other women who wrote their stories, some quite reluctantly. We were encouraged and supported to share ourselves with our community.

Why, oh why, Ms. Rich, do we have to wait for women of 60, 70 or 80 to do the research, the interviews, and the editing for such a book? How invalidated are the stories because of the supportive help, encouragement, and even guidance of a number of professional women in their forties? It is like saying that if a woman has not physically given birth to a child, she has no understanding of what caring for and loving a child can mean. We know this is not true. And how sad it would be if it were! We would all be living like separate creatures shielded against each other, with no ability to empathize, to feel love or pain for anyone different in age or texture from ourselves!

Ms. Rich concludes that "*Long Time Passing* is a book to be read for two reasons: to know more about the lives of lesbians and to study in-depth the dangers of professionalism in the lesbian community, and the ways in which old lesbians are disempowered by it. We wait for an anthology of mid-life lesbians written by and for mid-life lesbians, an anthology of old lesbians by and for old lesbians. ..."

The professionalism that Marcy Adelman and the doctor, lawyer and social worker contribute to the book seems to me to be a special gift of caring. Ms. Rich, when you are 75, will you live in a world exclusively of 75-year-olds? Will you take your nurturance solely from them, because they are your age, therefore the only ones who can love, care for or speak for you? I certainly hope not.

It is the special chemistry between age groups that often illuminates the vision of each.
Elena Howard

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GayCommunityNews

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Speaking Out

Lesbians and Gays of Color: Our Take on the 1986 International Conference

By Debra O'Gara, Yolanda Alaniz, Nancy Kato and Merle Woo

If the 1986 International Lesbian and Gay People of Color Conference is any indication, a lot of people in our movement are ready to take political action against the reactionary forces that are building against us. They have taken the political temperature of the times and realize that the time is past for conferences that offer little more than the opportunity to meet old friends and talk shop.

The theme of this conference was "Joining Our Struggles: Making Our Future." The conference itself was sponsored by Gay & Lesbian Latinos Unidos (GLUU), a group of women and men based in Los Angeles who also produce a monthly newsletter and radio show. GLLU deserves tremendous thanks for the considerable time, effort, and money they put out to organize a conference of this magnitude.

This was the fourth conference of lesbians and gays of color and the first international one. Two hundred people attended. They came from Mexico, London, and all over the U.S. Attendees included Latinos and Chicanos, Mexicanos, Asian Americans, Filipinos, Puerto Ricans, Blacks and Cubans. A variety of community, political, and social groups were represented.

We are members of the Freedom Socialist Party (FSP) and Radical Women (RW) groups which attended the 1979, 1981 and 1984 conferences also.

FSP and RW first heard about this conference through our good Los Angeles friend and comrade Monica Hill, through whom conference planners reached our Bay Area comrade Merle Woo, who then agreed to be a keynote panelist. Planners also accepted as a keynote panelist Seattle RW member Debra O'Gara, who is active in both the Indian movement and Seattle's Stonewall Committee for Lesbian/Gay Rights.

We were thrilled with the site and the occasion. What better time to hold this conference than now, when lesbian and gay people of color are under such fierce attack by the right wing and capitalist society in general? What better time, when the reaction requires all of us to organize in our own self-defense?

So we went to Los Angeles, anticipating the opportunity to see old friends, make new ones, and discuss and debate the political issues that bring us together. Our delegation saw the conference as a chance to broaden alliances and help determine the issues that conference attendees would take up in order to advance our movement.

Resolving to Act

Because of the racial, national, and political diversity represented at the conference, we needed the opportunity to discuss and debate such topics as discrimination against lesbians and gays in employment and housing; California's LaRouche initiative to quarantine gays with AIDS; recent passage of the Simpson-Rodino Bill; abortion rights; apartheid; sexism; and the whole attack on civil rights by the Reagan administration and the right wing Conference attendees would have been very willing to deal with these timely and critical issues. But this didn't happen because the agenda was so narrow in scope. At future conferences we need an agenda that facilitates dealing with the key political issues facing lesbian and gay people of color.

Even though no means were provided for presenting, discussing, and voting on resolutions, attendees demanded the conference body be allowed to make *decisions*. They realized that taking a stand on issues is the first step toward finding the means to act on them. They wanted more than discussion; they wanted to plan how to fight back against our common enemies. Therefore, they voted to cancel the keynote panel in order to make room for presentation of resolutions, most of which came out of workshop discussions. This vote was an indication of the desire of the attendees to act as political people. The conference organizers agreed to go along with this change.

One resolution, presented by Carmen Vasquez, called for critical support of the Nicaraguan revolution, for equal rights for Nicaragua's lesbians and gays and women, and for the right to self-determination and autonomy for the Miskito, Sumo, and Rama Indians of the Atlantic Coast. This resolution passed, as did another mandating a conference to send a letter to the Mexican government demanding an end to its violence against lesbians and gays. A resolution calling on the lesbian and gay people of color movement to address youth of color was also passed, as was one calling on the movement to continue holding conferences to address national and international issues. It was decided that the next conference would be held in Toronto.

The vote to consider resolutions unfortunately left no time to hear the keynote panelists, who had come from far-off places to talk about the road ahead for our movement. Nonetheless, we in the FSP and RW delegation supported the change, because we believe it was most important for attendees to be allowed the chance to make decisions on issues.

Role of Conference Organizers

It was unclear what kind of conference the organizers wanted or expected. Aside from president Rita Gonzales' inspiring and energetic opening remarks, GLLU seemed to hold back from exercising leadership.

Perhaps GLLU underestimated who would be attending the conference and why. It was apparent throughout that attendees wanted to discuss the issues, map out strategies for

acting on them, and vote on resolutions to implement those strategies. It could also be that GLLU underestimated its own leadership role at the conference. As conference organizers, they were in the best position to help funnel the tremendous energy of the attendees into direct planning for action on agreed-upon issues.

We missed GLLU's political viewpoints in workshop discussions and decisions. We would have liked to hear what GLLU sees as the road for lesbians and gays of color, what it thinks we should do to fight the right wing, how it believes we should join our struggles and make our future.

Could it be that GLLU feared debate and disagreement? But we mustn't be afraid to disagree! Only by discussing and debating the issues, by establishing our areas of agreement and disagreement, can we *begin* to work toward the unity we need in these reactionary political times.

Leadership — the Key

Leadership is crucial, now more than ever, to the lesbian and gay people of color movement. We need all the leadership we can get. We need those who will take the responsibility to say what they think, act on their gut-level reaction to the right wing, and organize our movement in all its diversity into a powerful force for political and social change.

Lesbian and gay people of color are the most oppressed in this society. We bear the brunt of the homophobia, racism, and sexism that maintains the established order. And in fighting against this order, we will find that we have a lot more in common with each other than we sometimes realize.

We will also find that we, as the most oppressed, have the capability to lead all the movements toward necessary change; our double and triple oppression has given us the strength, the skills, and the courage to fight for our survival and that of others.

Our movement can begin the work of building a *united front* — of lesbians and gays, people of color, feminists, labor, radicals, and all those who believe in democracy and equality. We are the connecting link in these movements and can rally them all in mutual defense against our common rightwing enemy.

Conferences such as this one are important in helping to build united action. And we would encourage discussion on united front action at the coming Toronto conference.

Thank You's Are in Order

We would like to thank everyone who attended the conference, and especially those who voted for a resolution, presented by Nancy Kato, in support of the FSP's Freeway Hall Case battle. The FSP is being sued by an ex-member for return of a donation he and others made in 1979 to an eviction fund set up by the party. The ex-member, Richard Snedigar, has charged the party with defrauding him of the donation. He has mounted a redbaiting campaign against the FSP and demanded, McCarthy-style, that the party turn over its minutes, membership lists, and contributors lists to the courts. The party has refused this demand and stated we will go to jail rather than comply. We are heartened by the tremendous national and international support we have gotten in our fight, by the conference endorsement we received, and we are highly optimistic that we will win.

Merle Woo would also like to thank the conference for supporting her effort to be rehired at the University of California at Berkeley as a lecturer. Many previously supported Merle in 1984 when she sued U.C. Berkeley for race, sex, sexual orientation, and political discrimination, and won.

Finally, Debra, on behalf of the family of David Sohapp, a member of the Yakima tribe in Washington state, would like to thank the conference for its support of the resolution she presented on behalf of the Sohappys' fishing rights struggle. The conference mandated that she write a letter to the U.S. Congress protesting the federal government's incarceration of Sohapp for exercising his sovereign right to fish on the Columbia River.

Well, that's it. We believe that, despite weakness, the 1986 International Lesbian and Gay People of Color Conference was a tremendously significant event and a big step toward realizing the full potential for our movement. We look forward to participating in future conferences.

We'll see you all in Toronto!

The authors, from Seattle, Washington and California's Bay Area, hope this article will promote discussion about the conference and the issues it raised.

"Speaking Out" is part of our continuing effort to provide a true forum of opinion for the community. We encourage you to send your ideas, feelings, and comments to us and we encourage you to respond to any ideas expressed in this space. Submissions to "Speaking Out" should be TYPED and DOUBLE SPACED, and, if possible, held to under 5 pages in length. The GCN staff collective reserves the right to limit length and number of signatures in "Speaking Out." The opinions expressed in "Speaking Out" do not necessarily reflect the views of the newspaper, the staff, or the advertisers. Write c/o Speaking Out, GCN, 62 Berkeley St., Boston, MA 02116.

Community Voices

if only cardinals law and o'connor were gay!

Dear GCN:

As a Roman Catholic, I feel that the recent GCN centerfold on the link between anti-Semitism and homophobia by my teacher, Bill Percy, merits my personal elaboration. My "ex"es include both practicing and fallen-away Catholics and Jews. I have been dragged along both to temple and to high mass: once I even found myself passing the collection basket at Saint Patrick's Cathedral in midtown Manhattan.

To me, Catholic clergy are known as gutless both on anti-Semitism and on homophobia. Most priests are weasels on both topics. I stopped going to confession at age 14, when I heard such questions as, "Alone or with others?" and "Were you looking at impure pictures?" once too often. My last confessor abruptly asked me, "You're not a homo or anything like that are you?"

Boston's last real Prince of the Church was Richard Cardinal Cushing, my fellow Boston College High School alum. His successors, Medeiros and Law, were and are either intellectually feeble or dishonest. For example, Medeiros promised Church funds to rehab the Hotel Avery as a temporary residence for homeless youth: his promise was empty. Law postures as a great hu-

manitarian, flying to Managua to see to a mercenary's wellbeing, while our children in the Combat Zone are ignored by the Church.

Bernard Cardinal Law is the sort you'd meet at Boston's Napoleon Club: bright, well coiffed and decked out, superficially attractive, and apparently a person of substance. Law likes to be liked. He cuts quite a romantic figure among poor Hispanics and elderly people at high mass in Boston's Holy Cross Cathedral.

As a youth, I lived in the shadow of the Holy Cross. I observed human suffering in the South End before it was rehabbed. I knew how effective Richard Cardinal Cushing was at getting the maximum bang from the parishioner's buck in the delivery of social services to all. Cushing was a genius, and a human being of overwhelming compassion. Were he alive today, he would haunt the halls where people with AIDS suffer. A genuine ecumenist, Cushing was universally loved in Boston by people of all faiths.

Cardinal Law, on the other hand, needs to hear positive feedback if he is to demonstrate any courage in confronting either anti-Semitism or homophobia where it really counts. Shame on Law for pretending AIDS doesn't exist. Law is a Harvard person, so let me just say that he has a

bag over his head if he doesn't know about homosexuality. It's too bad that Pope John Paul II couldn't make one U.S. Cardinal by combining Bernard Law's personal sweetness with the implacable and hard-headed ruthless business sense of New York's John Cardinal O'Connor.

O'Connor, who makes common cause with the least tolerant Jewish sect against civil rights for lesbians and gays, knows how to work the levers of the political machine in New York, just as Cushing once did in Boston. O'Connor genuinely follows the Pope's line that homosexuality is an objective moral disorder, and I think it is safe to say that O'Connor is the prototypical homophobe. Yet, when Saint Claire's Hospital on Manhattan's West Side was slated for closure because of the City's surplus bed cutback, O'Connor brilliantly snatched it from the developer's wrecking ball.

Today, New York's Roman Catholic Archdiocese operates the first AIDS treatment center designated by New York State. The Spellman Center, named for the late Francis Cardinal Spellman, helps people with AIDS.

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In fact, the Spellman Center may well be the country's leader in alternative therapies for people with AIDS.

There is no contradiction between the Church's disapproval of homosexual behavior and its mission as a healer. Toleration of apparent ambiguity is the mark of a mature institution. The Church's priests, nuns and laypeople, if inspired with the love Jesus of Nazareth required, are among the most perfect potential caretakers of people with AIDS.

When asked his message, Jesus said, "You should love God with all your heart, with your whole mind, with all your soul, and with all your strength. Second, you should love your fellow human being as you love yourself."

Roy Cohn, a favorite of mine, recently died with AIDS-related dementia. Roy was a dear friend of the late Cardinal Spellman. Say what you will about Roy and Francis, they did take care of their friends. Both men refused throughout their careers to see their friends disadvantaged.

If only Cardinals Law and O'Connor were gay! John Birmingham
Cambridge, MA

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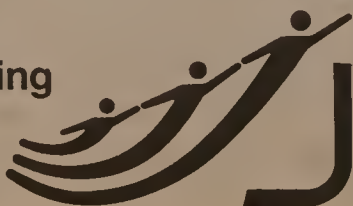
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Lily Darling: Scrutiny of Star's Success

Lily Tomlin, a film by Joan Churchill and Nicholas Broomfield. At the Coolidge Corner Moviehouse, Brookline.

By Sarah Schulman

Lily Tomlin, the new film by Joan Churchill and Nicholas Broomfield, is enormously successful and I can't imagine there is a person in the U.S. who wouldn't benefit personally from seeing it.

The filmmakers have captured perfectly why we love Lily Tomlin. She is smart, she dares to take emotional risks, she is sexy and exuberant with dark sides, intensely vulnerable and in control at the same time. She is a complete, complex personality and the filmmakers have been able to convey this with insight while retaining full respect for their subject.

This is also a very gay film. Lily is surrounded by gay people. The majority of her staff are clearly lesbians, the few men we ever see are gay. Her audiences around the country are filled with adoring, involved and affirmed lesbians and gay men. The filmmakers reproduce the gay material from her most recent show, *The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe*, and while she and her partner Jane Wagner may not be lovers anymore, they certainly have been and are the first public lesbian couple in modern media. They are serious, brilliant, mature and have the talent and the intimacy to create important and entertaining theater out of their spiritual and social perspectives.

Of course, as any behind-the-scenes film would present, we see Diva-ish sides of Lily too. In one piece, her company manager, Cheryl Swannack, is on the phone telling a graphic artist that her design for a Lily poster is entirely unacceptable. As a slight indication of how a public image is designed and maintained, Swannack emphasizes that she wants copies of any slides or reproductions made of the rejected poster, because "Lily" wants to be sure that no one sees it.

Actually Lily should have a little more faith in herself. She tried to block the distribution of this film claiming that the directors had reproduced too much of her one-woman show, but also claiming that they used too much personal footage and too many close-ups. The court rejected her claim, stating, "viewing the film (twice) has only enhanced interest in seeing the show in its entirety. For what it is worth, Ms. Tomlin, for whose creativity and talents the Court has great admiration, is most favorably presented in all aspects of the film, including close-ups."

What are some of the more revealing moments? We see Lily tell Swannack "Don't admit on camera that you take drugs because I'd have to fire you if you did." There is amazing footage from a pre-*Laugh-In* appearance on the *Merv Griffin Show* where Lily, in her bell-bottom pantsuit and atrocious hair-do is already presenting her work from an original and personal perspective. There are other wonderful clips from her television specials including a priceless full-dress Agnus Angst appearing with her band, the Manic Depressives. This last bit is contrasted with scenes of Lily working with her acting teacher, the late Peggy Fuery, to develop Agnes' voice and mannerisms.

It is fascinating to see Lily that closely without make-up because she seems to be exactly the way we expect her to be — driven, intense, with a big ego but open and searching and somewhat sad per-

sonally. In fact, Lily herself is so compelling that there seems to be too much of her as a performer and not enough of her as a person.

Churchill and Broomfield have stated in their press releases that one of the main problems they fac-

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Jane Wagner (L) and Lily Tomlin as pictured in the Harper & Row edition of Wagner's *The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe*.

Filmmaker Joan Churchill on the Real & Reluctant Lily Tomlin

By Ann Fry

Lily Tomlin, the controversial film which documents the metamorphosis of Tomlin's current Broadway hit *The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe* is opening this month in major cities across the U.S. Co-director and -producer Joan Churchill (whose credits include the documentaries *Soldier Girls*, 1981, and *Tattooed Tears*, 1978) was in Boston last week to talk about the film which Tomlin has tried unsuccessfully to block from release.

Churchill who describes her film as "admiring [Tomlin] to a fault" spoke candidly and not bitterly about the law suit that Tomlin et al. zapped her and partner Nicholas Broomfield with in June of last year, just as the film was completed. Tomlin, who had authorized the making of the documentary in 1983 before the tremendous success brought by *Search for Signs...*, claims the film contains too much footage of the Broadway show (13 minutes, 26 minutes total of Tomlin performing) which would hurt her subsequent marketing of the show to HBO. As stipulated by contract, the film for the most part deals only with the creative process involved in the birth of *Search for Signs...* One would have to be chronically heterosexual however, not to notice the gaggle of dykes that make up Tomlin's road crew.

As a result of the various lawsuits surrounding the release of *Lily Tomlin*, (two are currently pending; Tomlin has filed for \$6.75 million in damages and Churchill and Broomfield have counter-filed an 11 million dollar suit for breach of contract) major distributors will not touch the film. Churchill and Broomfield are doing the distribution themselves, something that requires a rigid, time-consuming schedule of appearances and interviews in major cities all over the country.

In spite of the taint of the legalities involved in getting the film to run, Churchill is very positive about *Lily Tomlin* and the three-year experience of making it. She described the enormous amount of energy Tomlin put into the creation of *Search for Signs...* and the fascinating process through which it was created. She explained that Tomlin liked to work with an audience in front of her and tried out the show, then called a "Work in Progress," in towns all over the U.S., drawing on audience input to the material. After the show, she would return to her hotel and work with her writer/partner Jane Wagner (who writes *all* her material), revising the show from audience evaluations of the evening's performance. Churchill describes the Wagner/Tomlin partnership as something of a fortuitous intermeshing of disparate types; Wagner being the creative influx for Tomlin's pragmatic and brilliant character acting.

Lily Tomlin has already been enormously successful in San Francisco and New York City (both of these cities being veritable meccas of lesbian culture it's not hard to figure out why) and opened in Boston on March 20. Churchill notes that Lily Tomlin is "just like the rest of us" and her film portrays her as such, in its limited personal scope. Perhaps Tomlin *does* want to appear to her fans as "just like the rest of us" and does not want them speculating about her sexuality. It seems, however, that the film can only further Tomlin's success, allowing viewers just a taste of the array of characterizations and comedic talent she displays in *Search for Signs...* Given the content of the film, viewers may wonder what exactly the hullabaloo is all about.

Penelope Breese/Gemma Liaison, Annie Leibovitz, Norman Seiff

Karen Finley's Angst Has Aged



Dana Ann McGillem

Karen Finley in "The Constant State of Desire"

By Regina Gillis

My infatuation with Karen Finley began one year ago when I saw her performance of "I'm an Ass Man" at the ICA. I was a changed woman — everything was suddenly absurd, nothing at all ultimately mattered, the fact that one woman was able to make me see all this after one hour struck me as eerie yet tantalizing.

I tried explaining her. This had been a near-death experience. I was irrevocably and irreversibly changed. I could no longer go home again (emphasis on "home"), nor could I go home again (emphasis on "I"). Frustrated, I resorted to graphically describing what led me to this Zen-like *satori* — yams up the ass, tit sandwiches and funny-tasting boys' pee. It was a last ditch effort, and I failed miserably, turning more people away from those "performance art weirdos" than I could ever have imagined.

Perhaps what attracted me to her the most — and also what scared me the most — was her ability to piss people off. For those who derived a heightened sexual experience from ascribing the shapes and consistencies of abalone or salami to their genitalia, Finley was a threat to their sexuality. For those who were tormented by memories of rape, incest, physical or verbal abuse, Finley was too grotesque, too victimized and too defenseless. For those who were familiar with her onslaught of bombastic gutter talk, Finley was a racist, classist pig who thrived on the victims her mind fabricated. The Gestalt that was hiding underneath was secondary to the tension and hate that surfaced.

But that was 1986 and this is, I hope, 1987. Finley has definitely shed a few layers of angst with "The Constant State of Desire," as evidenced March 7 at the ICA. In fact, she has dumped so much of it that she no longer falls under the ambiguous category of "performance artist." In fact, Finley could now be called a consummate satirist of all that is performance art.

Where "Ass Man" was extreme burlesque directed at some of the human absurdities about sex, "Desire" is the ultimate travesty of art, artists, victims and their portrayals by artists, critics, (especially Finley's), and a host of kitchen sinks including stage conventions, religion, the proposal and grant-writing process, art groupies and sex.

In "Blue Butt," the first "act" (Finley even satirizes what constitutes true artistic subdivisions), Finley showcased a friend's ass, painted blue, sticking through a backdrop of veils towards the audience. "This is art," she says, highlighting several outstanding features on the ass and gloating over how she can, for the next ninety minutes, call anything she wants "art," and have an audience of 200 accept her proclamation at face value.

The nightmarish sexual stories re-appeared this year in Act II, "Bad Things Happen to Good People." Finley jumps from man to woman as she "remembers" when a good-natured family-man tried to satisfy both wife and child by making a human dildo with a baby strapped to his groin, lubricating its head with fabric softener, and sending it "back to the womb, to its own room" by fucking his wife with it in the laundromat. But although this image is grotesquely disturbing, it is still laughable. There is a message in these epic lamentations — that the artists who portray these characters and call it art are even more pathetic than their victims.

There's more. Finley satirizes armchair feminists in a scene of two women trading ideologies between cigarette puffs:

"Did you know that for the first six weeks of a fetus' development, all fetuses are male?"

"You're kidding (puff)... So you mean to say that all males are just incomplete females?"

"Perhaps." (puff-puff)

"And that penis envy is really womb envy?"

"Perhaps." (slow, drawn out puff)

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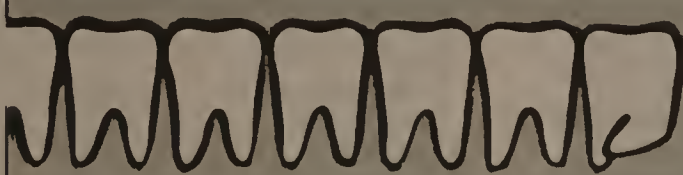
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Judy Grahm: Pursuing

By Pamela Wescott

My friend met me at Judy Grahm's recent Boston reading at the Old South Church. We launched into a conversation, trying to maintain eye contact while ogling the crowd: over 200 women, impressive, a sea of enlightened faces. I tried out the sound of a few interview questions. My friend advised me: "I like it when reviewers are personal. It helps me to know how someone makes sense out of literature. That's your job: just like the artist is supposed to show us how she makes sense out of life."

The theme of the reading sponsored by the Women's Theological Center was "A Common Woman's Work," the title of *The Collected Poetry of Judy Grahm (1964-1977)* which includes the series of "Common Woman Poems" first published by the Women's Press Collective in 1969.

I did not come directly from my job as planner for a state agency, because I had to change out of my suit, stockings, etc. into my leather jacket, black sweater, baggy pants and Reeboks. As soon as I focused on the topic of the evening, "A Common Woman's Work," I felt the acute exhaustion I know on Friday nights when I am so glad to be finished with a job that nourishes me so little. I wondered how many other women in the audience were asking themselves whether they would ever find their "life's work," and how long would it take to get there?

During the question and answer period the poet commented that finding one's work means "listening to our innermost dreams and putting them into action." I am still asking, as I asked myself that night, why has this been so difficult for me?

When she introduced herself, the poet commented, "I've done 75 percent of the work that women do. I've never had a baby. But I've worked as a medical secretary, a sandwich maker, an artist/model. I've learned to be a printer and owned a print shop. And now my work is teaching/writing/speaking/travelling. Another kind of work I do is cooking which I'm good at. Related to that is the kind of work I've watched my father do as a wood carver. Then there is the work that involves a certain electricity which is sex: you have a terrible argument with your lover and then you work it out."

Along the lines of electricity/sex, the first poem she read was "Talkers in a Dream Doorway" from her latest collection of poems, *The Queen of Swords*, to be published in the fall by Beacon Press.

This poem was my favorite of the evening, evoking a sexually charged scene between two women, described in terms of a taut, sensual energy that made me feel their attraction as if it were my own. In fact, the rush I felt from all my senses coming to attention lured me out of my Friday night exhaustion and left me ready for more.



Judy Grahm reading in Cambridge, January 16, 1987

progress based on a Sumerian myth about Erishkegal, goddess of the underworld. Helen, the goddess of love and light, chooses to meet Erishkegal, a woman with copper fingernails, naked, who beats a drum, and who owns a lesbian bar where the bouncer is named Nothing and the clientele includes "Crow Dykes," "Amazons," "Judges" and "Demons" who play pool. Ultimately (and according to the myth) Helen is stripped down to a piece of meat and hung on a hook.

One member of the audience asked if the play was intended as "cultural commentary," while another queried, "Why the violent imagery?" The author explained: "I love Erishkegal and so does Helen. Also, the myth taken from Sumer is violent: after Helen is hung on a meat hood, all her flesh deteriorates and falls off." Judy Grahm justified this depiction of violence saying, "One of the worst things we do is to deny the forcefulness of women."

The poet concluded by reading from "a funeral plainsong from a younger woman to an older woman," (*The Work of A Common Woman*).

In the material she read, the poet alluded to many forms a common woman's work might take. When I reflect on Judy Grahm's message about work, I realize that I have focused too narrowly, considering my paid work to be the only work I do. The reading reminded me that all of us undertake many other kinds of work: relationships, unpaid jobs that give us pleasure or meaning, participation in a family or community, work on political issues, caretaking others, recovery from addictions, therapy, work on personal growth, spirituality.

The poet had little time in one evening to do more than make reference to some of these forms of work. For example, she commented at the outset of the reading that her latest long poem, "Descent to the Roses of the Family" (available in pamphlet published by *Common Lives/Lesbian Lives*), concerns "alcoholism, madness in the family, and white supremacy."

She had more of an opportunity to expand on certain themes in the discussion and in an interview after the reading. I found myself looking for clues: how did she find and stay on her self-appointed path?

Judy Grahm helped me acknowledge that my paid work is a small part of the whole puzzle of work I undertake. Still I face the challenge of weaving "what is meaningful to me" into a paid job. I need to know how other people manage this feat.

To point the way for seekers like myself in pursuit of their "life's work," I concocted three "guideposts for finding meaningful work," or headings under which the poet's comments rearranged themselves:

Guideposts for Finding Meaningful Work

I. We start with the experiences (families) we're given and we must come to terms with them, separating out what is useful.

Throughout the reading, the poet mentioned her father as a significant figure, role model for her creative work, and as the person from whom she "inherited her spirituality." He taught her about creative work as a woodcarver: he showed her "the kind of grace that comes from drawing two lines and carving from that something exquisite He was also the town drunk," she said, "brought home by cabbies, a man who would sit in the living room and talk to himself." And for much of her life she wondered, "why did he come to a small town in New Mexico and sit there with his cigarette, his can of beer and his garulousness?" Only later did she realize that all of his friends had died of industrial diseases. It was because he had listened to his intuition that he had moved to New Mexico. And thirty years later, at age 88, he is still alive.

As soon as I focused on the topic of the evening, "A Common Woman's Work," I felt the acute exhaustion I know on Friday nights when I am so glad to be finished with a job that nourishes me so little.

The next poem challenged me differently: instead of offering a fantasy into which I could escape, it described my real worklife. "Helen you always were/ the factory" appears in *The Queen of Wands* published in 1982. This is Helen of Troy's story told from another perspective. I identify with this poem: it describes how women's creativity and labor are captured and contained by the modern workplace. I spend my days in that workplace: where priorities require that my creativity be channeled into "creating a paper trail" or producing the numbers to justify a budgetary request.

This poem made me squirm: how could I stay in a job that would never allow me to use my creativity in other ways? How long would it take me to find my real work?

One of the things Judy Grahm spoke of that night was having to come to terms with the facts that there have been violent women in her life. Perhaps the most controversial piece she read was part of a play-in-

I became much more aware of the poet's voice as her instrument when she read this poem. Her voice resonated like an oboe and gave authority and weight to every word:

am I not aged
shaky glazing
am I not hazy
guarded craven
am I not only
stingy little
am I not simple
brittle spitting
was I not over
over ridden?

The last line, "are we not olden, olden, olden" made my heart open to the survivor who was speaking.

g the Work We Want

II. *It is possible to find meaningful work, though we have to continue to listen to our intuitive, "knowing self" and it may take years.*

This poet's research into mythology and archetypes had a positive effect on her ability to write about her personal family history. She stated: "When the family is attached to a larger sense of history, it is very freeing. In writing 'Descent to the Roses of the Family' I felt stripped down to a naked self, like the archetypes I had studied. They challenged me to arrive at an honest saying."

She observed, "It's all one long work that hits the same note: it all has to do with transformation. For example, 'A Woman is Talking to Death' took three days to write. 'Descent to the Roses of the Family' took ten months of really hard work. They are sister poems. One is just an octave above the other. I'd say the note is E. No, E minor."

* * *

The interview ended, and the evening was over. Had I found what I was seeking? For me, Judy Grahn's work embodies empowerment and transformation. She has tapped her own creative energy source, challenging me to do the same. Now that I know some of the details of her quest to find meaningful work, I must ask myself: So. Now that you know these things, how are you going to live your life differently?

Recently a friend commented to me that the career patterns of gay men and lesbians include delayed periods when they "fall behind" while coming to terms with their sexual identity. The same could be said of alcoholics in recovery. For the long period of time it takes to break through one's denial to seek help, one's career is likely to be skewed.

Facing my sexuality and addictions has consumed

teacher began by eliciting comments from the students. I remember my impatience. When is he going to praise me to the skies? Finally, the teacher, who has since won many national awards himself, ridiculed my poems to the class, calling it "a good example of the kind of cuteness/cleverness that leaves me cold." I was humiliated.

Now I agree with him. Back then, I escaped into the words, the rhythms and the sounds: poetry gave me a foil for feeling my feelings without revealing them. I wrote in abstractions, a code I perceived as acceptable, for which I was rewarded until this teacher detected that this was not an honest rendering of feeling on the page. Even though the Academy of American Poets or their proxy went on to reward me for a succeeding effort, the game was up.

This brings me, full circle, to the poetry reading. These days, I value poetry that makes me feel, iden-

Because she so eloquently reminds us to "live, act, be ourselves" at a time when our culture insists that gay men and lesbians hate themselves, I find Judy Grahn's work heroic. I admire her energy to assert from this model of behavior, it is hard for me to say what is going on for me, if I sense that it might not be what is going on for you.

III. *Telling our own stories helps us to gain new perspectives on ourselves and our work.*

Telling our own stories opens us up to growth and transformation: this is the theme of Judy Grahn's latest non-fiction work, *Another Mother Tongue: Gay Words, Gay Worlds* published by Beacon Press in 1984.

This book contains swatches of autobiography, threads of mythology interwoven with history, and includes Judy Grahn's own "true to life adventure story." She depicts how gay people have behaved in different cultures (including gay subcultures) throughout the centuries. When I first read snatches of this book, sneaking it periodically from my top drawer at work, I felt the same thrill mixed with an instinctive fear for the author's life that I felt when my lover instructed me to read *edward the dyke and other poems* in 1977. I had gone to live for the rest of my life in San Francisco, and I had not yet heard of Judy Grahn.

In *Another Mother Tongue*, the poet describes how she first envisioned her "life's work." She was in the process of healing herself from a rare infection when she found herself watching a mother racoon urge her babies, one by one, to let go of their grip of the roof and free-fall into her outstretched arms, three feet below on the porch rail:

"When she had persuaded them all to come down, she led them onto a long, tremulously thin tree branch and took her family for their first trek into the woods. I watched the great long limb swaying in the moonlight as the parade of racoons marched along it. I had not been so glad to be alive in years. And I knew what they meant: Just let go, trust your own powers and the power of those around you. Don't hang forever on the eave of the roof overlooking the great creative forest, trying to control something. Let go, trust the twitter all around you."

She continues: "Mice, squirrels, and small birds also came into the house during those weeks, in addition to the big jays and the several cats who lived there. They all told me: Live, act, be yourself."

"Surrounded by creatures who have always given me such fine company and advice, I began to write as soon as I could function at all, determined that never again would I let anything deter me from my course or purpose in life. If being a poet meant flinging myself over the parapet of safety and learning to fly, then I would do it. And so again, as had happened when I was a child, I had guides and voices, visions, odd ways of thinking, all the altered states of consciousness necessary for the core of artistic creations. From then on my course was fixed: my work centered on forging a new definition of Gay people in my writing and in my public performances."

much time and energy that might otherwise have gone into speeding me along my career path. I woke up one morning, sober, and found that I owned several suits including a blue pinstriped one from Brooks Brothers, and many shirts freshly starched from the dry cleaners. My bureau drawers were knotted with nylon stockings and "thigh hi's," my closet was cluttered with little pointed shoes. I owned a pocketbook, briefcase, wallet, and trench coat. I wore a designer watch. I had pierced my ears, permed my hair. And I had recently purchased a computer.

To my surprise, I realized that I had been employed as a consultant at Harvard's Kennedy School, where I wrote a book about Massachusetts state government. Finally, with a California collection agency on my heels for back payment of a graduate school loan, I had taken a job as a planner for a state agency where I have remained for the past three years.

Judy Grahn helped me acknowledge that my paid work is a small part of the whole puzzle of work I undertake. Still I face the challenge of weaving "what is meaningful to me" into a paid job.

Having awakened to this state of affairs, I know I have not yet found my work. The bureaucracy can be, tedious, especially when advocacy for the underdog takes a backseat to quarterly performance reviews. Now that I am sober, I have asked myself: Why have I not yet begun my work? My spirit stirs, waiting to be sprung.

* * *

Before I attend any poetry reading, a part of me feels that I won't understand it, even though I wrote poetry in college and won two prizes for it. My success prompted me to take a class in writing it, and I felt sure I would be the star. When my first poem was discussed (a cryptic statement about a Kentucky coal mine disaster, corporate greed, and life after death), the


tify, gives me courage. Poetry that pushes me to be honest, reminds me to live a more authentic life. And I see that I have changed. Honest talk is no longer a luxury: it is the food I need to survive.

Because she so eloquently reminds us to "live, act, be ourselves" at a time when our culture insists that gay men and lesbians hate themselves, I find Judy Grahn's work heroic. I admire her energy to assert another reality: it my reality. And yet I am so far from this model of behavior, it is hard for me to say *what is going on for me*, if I sense that it might not be what is going on for you. It continues to be hard to come out as a gay person to large groups of straight people, or small, intimate gatherings of family members. It is hard to say that I am feeling sexual when I know you are not, or to say that I am not, when I know you are. It is hard to say I am tired, when I know you want to go dancing. It is hard to say I cannot meet you for lunch because what I really need is to

stay home and conduct my sacred routines on Saturday.

Because even these mundane statements are so difficult for me to make, I am impressed by this poet's willingness to speak honestly, regardless of who might be listening. If I learn one thing from Judy Grahn's writing, it is to feel the power of one person's story to inspire, enlighten and transform. When I censor myself or engage in forms of subterfuge, I feel dead. "Live, act, be yourself!" And as long as my paid work feels deadening, let me live, at least here, on this page.

One of Judy Grahn's next projects will be: Inanna Institute, a way of teaching from ancient Sumerian myths as a basis for women's intelligence and knowingness. Anyone interested may contact Inanna Institute, Box 11164, Oakland, CA 94611.



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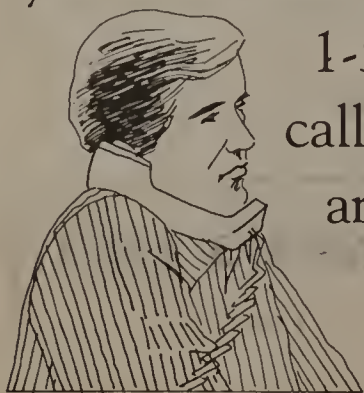
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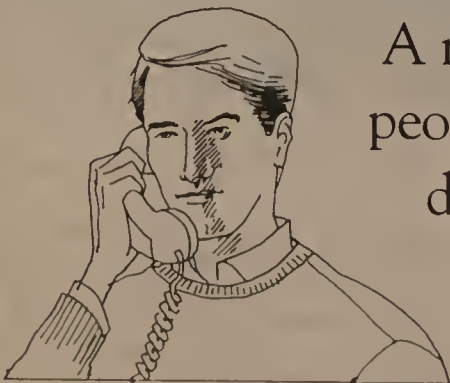
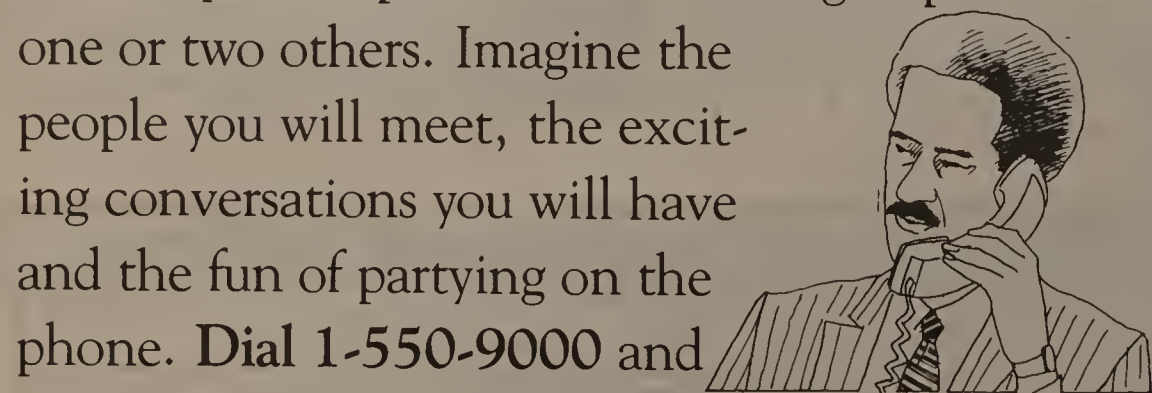
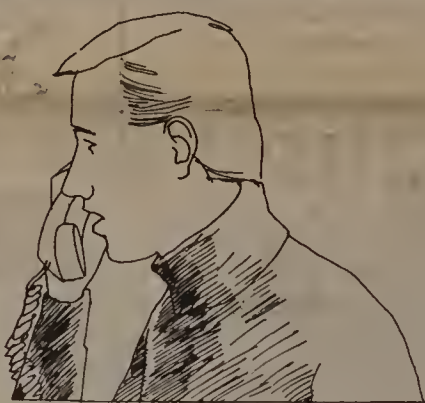
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It looks like a big commercial garage, but there are all these weird little things about it. Reggae music is blasting away, signs for political and union meetings are taped up, the mechanic might be a woman, and sometimes it's hard to find anyone in charge. J & S has been Boston's hippest garage for years and years, and for the last few years, it's also been the best. Even when they didn't know how to fix everything, they never cheated anybody or covered up. So over the years they kept learning new makes and new techniques, and now can repair about anything. Their speciality is still Dodge Darts and Plymouth Valiants, those classics of dependability. But they're ready for anything and did most of the work on the antique vehicles for the movie "The Brinks Job."

Reprinted from Real Paper, "Best of Boston," Fall 1980.

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—John Engstrom, Boston Globe

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—Kevin Kelly, Boston Globe

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THE TERRACE ROOM
AT THE BOSTON PARK PLAZA

Britt, Pelosi Contest

Continued from page 2

markedly supportive of Britt. On March 7, after the *Coming Up!* story appeared, a broad-based group of lesbians and gays showed up at Britt's office to show their continued support, according to the San Francisco *Bay Guardian*, a liberal magazine.

Gwen Craig, former president of the Harvey Milk Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club, insists that Britt has been a very able leader. "You can argue with his strategy but he has accomplished an awful lot in the last eight years. He went through a difficult time when his close friend and advisor Bill Kraus died of AIDS. He lost interest in what he was doing. But since then he has picked up." Even his supporters, however, admit that he made a mistake in supporting Molinari rather than Agnos for Mayor.

Pelosi has also come under severe attack. A Baltimore *Sun* article in 1985 states that Pelosi worked to abolish the Democratic Party's Gay and Lesbian Caucus because it was potentially "damaging" to the party. Charlie Howell, Pelosi's gay and lesbian coordinator, told *GCN* this was a decision made by Democratic Party Chairman Paul Kirk and that Pelosi opposed the decision. Craig, who was a party activist at the time, says that at the very least Pelosi was an apologist for Kirk's anti-gay and lesbian decision.

The Bay Area *Reporter*, another local gay paper, also claims that Scott Smith, Harvey Milk's former lover, was removed as host to the Mississippi delegation at the Democratic convention by Pelosi for being "too gay." Howell claims that Smith was removed for attempting to follow his own agenda at the expense of the rest of the gay and lesbian caucus. Craig claims Pelosi simply does not fight for gay and lesbian causes the way Britt does.

The San Francisco *Sentinel* reports that the National Association of Gay and Lesbian Democratic Clubs has demanded that Pelosi retract a piece of campaign literature that includes the "misuse of our name" and apologize. The full-page Pelosi ad, which the *Sentinel* ran in its March

Karen Finley

Continued from page 7

"And that women are the superior sex and men the inferior?"

"Oh, God, it's 4:30. I'd better get Jerry's dinner ready."

"What are you making?"

"Hawaiian Beef Stroganoff (displaying a box of Hamburger Helper). I never once regretted giving up my career for my husband and family. I'm content being a boring housewife."

But it's not really "the feminists" (as one WBUR reviewer put it) that Finley is out to get — it's the preconceived notion that women, born either mothers or whores, freely choose to compromise themselves for the sake of acquiring and maintaining a family.

And, as if to quell her critics, Finley stacked some ammunition — *Sisterhood is Powerful*, Kate Millett's *Sexual Politics*, and Carol Gilligan's *In Another Voice* — in a pile at the stage front. But, in that I-know-how-to-piss-you-off-anyway way, just when she's gotten your attention and you think you've gotten her all figured out she chucks all her books off-stage, dumps a bucket of nail-polish bottles on a card table, turns a ceramic camel from facing west to east (making sure that those in the back rows, who never saw the camel in the first place now know that it's there and facing a different direction), and begins another tirade of time-tempered angst.

20 issue next to an article criticizing the ad, portrayed Pelosi as a friend of the gay community, endorsed by the National Association of Gay and Lesbian Democratic Clubs. Howell denies that the ad misrepresents Pelosi's gay and lesbian support.

No matter what the result of the election, analysts agree that the gay and lesbian community in San Francisco has matured into a powerful political force that even the Democratic Party must recognize.

—filed from Boston

Lily Darling: Scrutiny of Star's Success

Continued from page 6

ed was how to get behind the public persona of Lily Tomlin.

Obviously as an actress, Lily was used to the presence of cameras, but only with a script and a specific role to play. Our way of working has always been to film those moments which are the most spontaneous and unguarded; which are in some way telling or revealing of the person being filmed. Lily would tend to either play directly to the camera, or would ask us what



Nick Broomfield & Joan Churchill

we wanted from the scene. It took us far longer to accumulate any footage that didn't feel staged than we had imagined.

The film is successful because you come away from it knowing more about Lily Tomlin as a per-

son, seeing many of her flaws, and respecting her all the more for her accessibility and consistent emotional honesty. And as a gay person, she has exhibited an incredible integrity of perspective and presentation which, combined with her enormous talent and genius, makes her one of the most important artists of our time.

As for Jane, the film creates more questions than answers. Is she the woman behind the woman? Is she austere? A Southern belle? Is her reticence more revealing than Lily's constant put-on? In the end, Jane Wagner remains an enigma.

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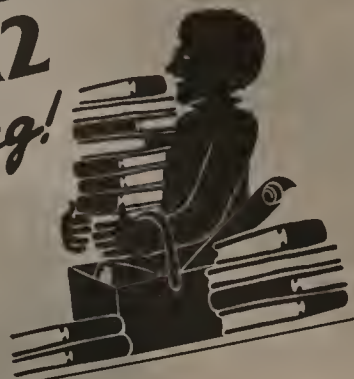


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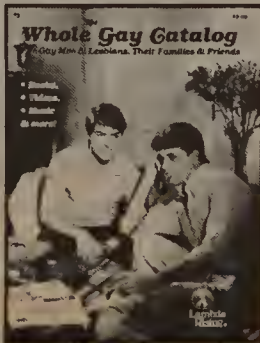
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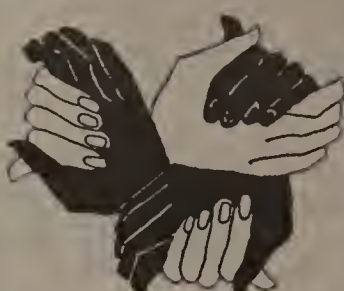
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COMING OUT!
What kind of support is available? What's needed? How to start getting it? What could prisoners be doing (inside organizing and after they're out)? Ideas?

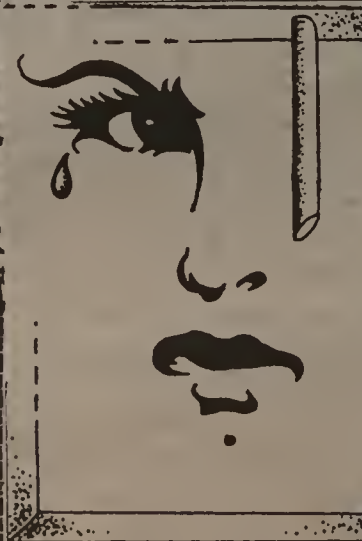
Send Mike your feelings and thoughts on everything here from jobs to friendship to changes in people's attitudes toward 'ex-cons' etc. etc. I'll try to put them all together and make a story out of them. Thanks.



BISEXUAL? The Prisoner Project has got some requests to do something on bisexuality and prisoners. If you want to jot down a couple pages on your experience with the idea and the real thing, please do and send it to Mike. We'll see if we can put the pieces together and make an article out of it. Thanks!



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Includes chapters on legal research; outline of the legal system; overview of prisoners rights; actions, remedies and defenses; how to litigate in federal court; parole; federal post-conviction remedies; detainers; civil rights forms; law library requirements; and MORE!! Available from the publisher for \$14 to prisoners (including postage): Oceana Press, 75 Main St., Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522.



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(Alexander Berkman, Prison Memoirs of an Anarchist)

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GAY ORGANIZATIONS that should be made more aware of prisoners. Don't expect a response, but let them know you're there (if you have the extra postage):
***NATIONAL GAY & LESBIAN TASK FORCE**, 1517 U St. NW, Washington DC 20009.
***NATIONAL GAY RIGHTS ADVOCATES**, 540 Castro, San Francisco, CA 94114 (western states only)
***LAMBDA LEGAL DEFENSE**, 132 W. 43rd St., NYC 10036 (eastern states)
***ACLU NATIONAL GAY RIGHTS TASK FORCE**, 633 S. Shatto Pl., Los Angeles CA 90005
***ACLU NATIONAL PRISON PROJECT** (not only gay), 1616 P St. NW, Washington DC 20036
***NATIONAL LAWYERS GUILD, GAY CAUCUS**, 558 Capp St., San Francisco, CA 94110
*(These places aren't always helpful, but they need to be constantly reminded how important it is for them to support prisoners; something they often forget because prisoners don't have \$\$\$)

OUT AMONG THE STARS

(by Hazel Dickson)

It's midnight at a liquor store in Texas. Beneath the neon, close-up's just begun. When a boy walks in the door and points a pistol.

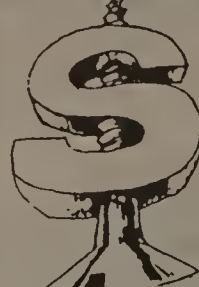
He can't find a job, but oh he found a gun

He pulls it off, no trace of confrontation. He lets the old man run out in the street. He knows that soon they'll come with guns a-blazin' Already he can feel that great relief.

Oh, how many travelers get weary, Bearing both their burden and their scars? Don't you think they'd love to stop complaining? And fly like eagles out among the stars?

He pictures the arrival of the bruisers, Sees that old familiar anger in their eyes. He knows that when they're shootin' at this loser They're aimin' at the demons in their lives.

The evening news it carries all the details He dies in every living room in town And in his own, a bottle thrown in anger His father cries, "We'll never live this down!"



I didn't receive the sample GCN that you sent so I guess they won't let it in, though I would like to get them. If you have some I'd like some books: horror stories are my favorite; also please send your information on TV/TS's. Thanks for being there. Lyle FIEDLER, Box 9561, Wilmington DE 19809.

I would like to have a penpal. I like R&R, and C&W music and would like to hear from someone who has an interest in the outdoor life (camping, etc) and good music. I'll answer all men and women who write. Steven SMITH, D-20178, Box 8101 (2143), San Luis Obispo CA 93409.

Desperately Seeking **MACHO** — Lonely. I consider myself a woman. I'm very kinky and into SM and bondage. So all you Men out there who think you have what it takes to tie me down, feel free to contact me. Raymond MARRERO, 85A 4653, 135 State St, Auburn NY 13021.

I'm a sexy, cute, light complexioned, Black Aquarius male in need of an associate that can bring total comfort thru this moment of crisis and loneliness. Alonzo Lee MILLER, 40210, Box 2, Lansing KS 66043.

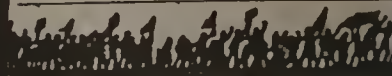
I'd like to get a copy of your paper every so often to see how the sisters on the outside are living it up. I'm a strawberry blond seeking penpals for friendship. SASE if possible. Thanks! Ferrell L. GATELEY, B-321560, 1150 SW Allapattah Rd, Indiantown FL 33456.



I enjoy reading your paper. I never knew such places existed. I'm not really gay but I do have my curiosities of it all. I'd love to start receiving your daily news. I think it would help me. Also I would like a penpal. I'm a very sweet Black lady, 20 years old, Libra, and a very adventurous person. I'm seeking that true blue person for friendship or a possible relationship. Yolanda McCOY, Box 535, Jessup MD 20794.



FLORIDA prisoners: The Florida Clearinghouse on Criminal Justice works for the rights of Florida prisoners, especially those of women in prison. For more information write them at 222 W. Pensacola St, Tallahassee FL 32301.



I am poor but I am willing to write stories or draw pictures or do poems if you need any work done so I can have one of your papers. I have no one to write to and would like to write to someone who'd be willing to write to me. (I'm very lonely) Tim GRIMALDI, 11013, Box 607, Carson City NV 89701.

I'm looking for someone I can share my dreams and thoughts with, nothing more! I don't need money or anything else. I just need a friend who can understand my situation and acknowledge the fact that I am a living, feeling person. Thank you, Chuck ARNDTS, 175-557, Box 45699, Lucasville OH 45699.

In prison and lonely. Need a friend to help me find a parole situation. I would like to leave this part of the country. Please write and let's get to know each other. Norman FIELD, 286739, Box 1000, Stellacoom WA 98388.

[From a reader]: I write to a prisoner who asked to request for him that you put him on your correspondence list. He longs for communication. Michael BRIGHTON, 85C 335, Box 51, Comstock NY 12821.



Cancer/Leo, versatile, seeking sincere lasting friendship with sensual, emotional gays. Affection written is affection shared too. Lawrence HOOK, 191-379, Box 45699, Lucasville OH 45699.

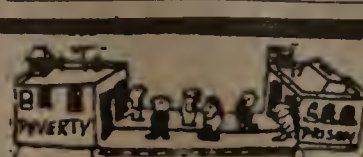
Lonely Karate instructor would like to correspond with people in whom I can identify with the same life style. I'm Black, 35, Sag, and will answer all. Guy ISLEY, 75A 730, 135 State St, Auburn NY 13021.

Black male homosexual would like to correspond with Black male nude models from Dallas who are in the free world, models who are very manly (macho), sexy, handsome, athletic (sports type), and 100 percent man. No matter if they are light skin, brown skin or dark skin dudes. I'm attractive, femme, and well educated. Lawrence RABON, 391150, Rt 1 Box 150, Tennessee Colony TX 75861.

I'm interested in writing a book about prisons and the criminal justice system. Believe me, I've had plenty of experience in this area. So anyone who might be interested or would want to develop a friendship, I would be interested in hearing from you. Thank you so much for your support in the paper. Russell MANN, 189-375, Box 45699, Lucasville OH 45699.

Here's a short ad for penpals if you can print it. Anyone who wishes to write me, I will write back, but please no games. Love to write long letters, and very sincere. aka 'Lil Angel'. Richard BACA, 387582, Rt 1 Box 1, Wynne, Huntsville TX 77349.

Attractive, Black male, seeks homosexuals, Queens, TV/TSs for possible relationship. Horace T. WOODS, 123313, Box 488, Burkeville VA 23922.



CALENDAR

**April 4
to
April 16**

4 saturday

Boston — DOB lesbian potluck. 156 Warren Ave., South End. 7PM. \$3 plus dish. Info: 661-3633.

Somerville — Cris Williamson & Tret Fure, and Greg Brown. Somerville Theater, Davis Square. 6PM & 9:30PM. \$14.50. Info: 641-1010.

Amherst — Gay and Lesbian Awareness Week at U-Mass. Continues through 4/11. Participants include Romanovsky and Phillips, Becky BIRTHA, Virginia Apuzzo, Tom Wilson Weinberg, among others.

Cambridge — RE:VISION Film Festival includes work by Bette Gordon and Chantel Ackerman, among others. The Brattle and other area theaters 4/4-12. Info: Vanessa Boris, 253-0304.

5 sunday

Dorchester — Dorchester Gay and Lesbian Association, monthly potluck. Info: Joe, 282-7822, evenings.

Boston — Lip-Synch Contest sponsored by the Buccaneers to benefit the Beantown Softball League. 1270 Boylston. 5PM. \$6.

Quincy — Quincy Lesbian and Gay Alliance business meeting. 7-9PM. Info: De, 328-5567.



Becky BIRTHA, 4 saturday

6 monday

Cambridge — Lesbian entrepreneurs. DOB, Old Cambridge Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. 8PM. Info: 661-3633.

Boston — AIDS bereavement discussion sponsored by the Committee on Gay and Lesbian Issues of the National Association of Social Workers. 7:30PM. Info: 227-9635 days, 625-2609 eves.

Boston — GCN office warming. Potluck supper, 6PM. Membership meeting, 7PM. Dance party, 8:30PM. 62 Berkeley St., near Arlington and Dover T-stops. All welcome. Info: 426-4469.

Boston — Paula Bennett speaks on lesbian literature. Geo. Sherman Union, 775 Comm. Ave. 7:30PM. Info: 353-9808.

Cambridge — Lesbian Rap. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 8-10PM. Info: 354-8807.

Cambridge — Women's School classes & workshops begin: AIDS, science fiction, politics, comedy, computers & more. Info: 354-8807.

7 tuesday

Cambridge — Former Nun Lesbian Support Group. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 7PM. Info: 354-8807.

Cambridge — WITCH presents "Going Astray: Thoughts of a Radical Feminist Wilderness Guide," with Anne G. Dellenbaugh. Episcopal Divinity School. 8PM. \$5. Info: 491-3549.

Boston — Gay Fathers of Greater Boston discussion, "In Pursuit of Happiness — Your Evolving Sense of Identity." Info: 742-7897.

Cambridge — LEGACY general meeting. Cambridge Committee of Elders, Pearl St., Central Sq. Info: Ann Maguire, 725-4000.

Amherst — "Politics of the Body and the Body Politic," with Margaret Cerullo, David Scondras, Cindy Patton & Sue Hyde. UMass, Memorial Hall. 4PM. Free. Wheelchair accessible. Info: (413) 545-4824.

Boston — Day of Prayer & Fasting for people with AIDS/ARC organized by Dignity/Boston. Singing of Vespers, St. John the Evangelist, 7PM. All welcome.

8 wednesday

Boston — NOW Lesbian Rights Task Force. NOW office, 971 Comm. Ave. 6:30PM. Info: Nicolette or Lenora, 782-1056.

Cambridge — Film documentary Improper Conduct presented by Harvard Law School gay/lesbian group. Alan West will provide remarks. Pound Hall, rm. 107, Harvard Law School. 7:30PM. Free. All welcome.

Cambridge — Feminist discussion group: "Images of Women in Art." Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 8PM. Info: 354-8807.

Brookline — Am Tikva hosts a "model seder." Workman's Circle, 1762 Beacon St. 7PM. Bring veggie/dairy dish to share. Donation requested. Info: 782-8894.

9 thursday

Boston — GCN's production night. All welcome. Proofreading: until 8PM. Paste-up: 7PM-on. 62 Berkeley St., near Dover & Arlington T-stops. GCN: 426-4469.

Cambridge — Lesbians Choosing Children Network: "How Our Mothers Affect Our Mothering Decisions." Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 7:30PM. Childcare provided. Info: 354-8807.

Amherst — Virginia Apuzzo on "Policies of Prejudice: Institutional Responsibility for a Safe Climate." UMass, Memorial Hall. 8PM. Free. Wheelchair accessible. Info: (413) 545-4824.

10 friday

Boston — GCN's volunteer night: all welcome to help mail the paper to our subscribers. Refreshments, good times. Anytime after 6PM. 62 Berkeley St., near Dover & Arlington T-stops. GCN: 426-4469.

Boston — Gay Composers, Gay Poets, a vocal & piano concert by Richard Strange & Jonathan Goldberg. Arlington St. Church. 8PM. \$7 sliding scale. Also Sat. Info: 899-1678.

Boston — Gay Professional Women present Ann Marie Silvia, of the AAC, "AIDS & Lesbian Women." 5 Joy St., Beacon Hill (Appalachian Mtn. Club). \$5 guest fee.

Belmont — E.J. Graff will read her poems. Second Friday Coffeehouse, First Church, Unitarian, 404 Concord Ave. 8PM. \$3 donation. Info: 484-1054.

Cambridge — Benefit concert by "Sara Laughs," formerly Amelia & Jennifer, for Nuevo Instituto de Centro America in Nicaragua. Modern Times Cafe, 134 Hampshire St. \$5. Info: 491-1124.

11 saturday

Jamaica Plain — Beantown Softball League exhibition game: Uptown v. Buccaneers. Daisy Field, the J-way. 2:30PM. Info: 267-0328.



Richard Strange, 10 friday

Cambridge — Classical music by women for women. DOB, Old Camb. Baptist Church, 1511 Mass. Ave. 8PM. DOB members, \$4, others \$5. Info: Jean, 277-8150.

Brookline — Mass. Lesbian & Gay Bar Assoc. Spring Dinner Dance. Longwood Towers, 20 Chapel St. 7PM. \$40 members, \$45 non-members. Info: Chris Westphal, 738-7981.

Boston — "Feeling So Gay," an evening of live dance music (swing, polka, waltz and rock) by Boston's Lesbian & Gay Freedom Trail Band. Boston YWCA, Clarendon St. An alcohol-free event.

Boston — "Something About the Women," a music & public affairs radio program, interviews Tufts' Women's Center representatives. WMFO, 91.5 FM. 11AM. Info: 321-9319.

Worcester — Labrys, a women's duo in concert. YWCA, 1 Salem Sq. 8PM. Info: 791-3181.

12 sunday

Cambridge — AIDS risk for women, a seminar by the AIDS Action Committee. YWCA, 7 Temple St. 6PM. Free. Info: 491-6050.

Newton — Women's rugby clinic sponsored by the Beantown Women's Rugby Club. Lasell Junior College. 9:30AM-5PM. \$10. Info: Betsy, 734-1271 or Kerri, 731-8358.

Roxbury — Gaylaxian Science Fiction Society, monthly meeting. 1PM. Info: P.O. Box 1051, Back Bay Annex, Boston 02117.

Salem — Wild Women's Witch Hunt. Carpool from Cambridge, Old Camb. Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. 9AM. Info: Ruth, 1-745-7329.

Durham, NH — Univ. of N.H. at Durham Gay & Lesbian Cultural Awareness Fest. Through 4/20. Info: (603) 862-1008.

Northampton — Lavender Letters: Lesbians in Literature, a slide/talk by Patricia A. Roth. New Alexandria Lesbian Library. 3PM. \$3. Women only. Wheelchair accessible. Info: (413) 584-7616.

13 monday

Boston — "Musically Speaking," jazz, R&B, African, reggae & women's music radio programming by Melanie Berzon. WMBR, 88.1 FM. 8-10PM. Info: 494-8810.

16 thursday

Boston — Iris Bloom's one-woman theater based on the Thompson-Kowalski disabled lesbian legal battle. Boston Univ. Law School auditorium, 765 Comm. Ave. Free. All welcome. Info: 353-9808.

Boston — Civil disobedience organizing meeting for Oct. lesbian/gay march on Washington. UMass./downtown, 100 Arlington St. 7PM. Wheelchair accessible. Info: 492-1091.

Burglar. Directed by Hugh Wilson. Written by Joseph Loeb III, Matthew Weisman, and Hugh Wilson. With Whoopi Goldberg, Bob Goldthwaite, G.W. Bailey and Leslie Ann Warren. Based on the Burglar books by Lawrence Sanders.

Burglar opens with Whoopi Goldberg (Bernice) in a great sequence posing as a domestic to rip off a house in a wealthy, white suburb. It's an old joke, but Whoopi's version is a kick. Unfortunately, the movie is mostly downhill from there as Bernice (parolee and prison boxing champ) gets caught in a maze of bars, blackmail, bungling cops, car chases, and murder.

While she is pulling off a job, a man is stabbed. Bernice, of course, is framed and has to find the killer to save her own neck. She figures out that the guy was murdered by a male lover in a fit of jealousy and rage. A "closeted gay" with a wife and kids kills a "bisexual swinger"?!! Since these details are all but extraneous to the plot and characters, what are they supposed to mean in this time of increasing violence against gays? This aspect of the film, like many other details, are lined up one after another to shock and titillate rather than fill out a character or tell a good story.

Whoopi gets to do her schtick: her Eastern European, her junkie, her ball-buster, but it's not enough. She needs a story and character that match her talent, charm, wonderful comic/dramatic sense and powerful screen presence. Why would such a talented woman do such a movie? The answer is obvious: she's a Hollywood actor and she wants to work. Why wouldn't a producer/director do better by her? They must not know how, despite the money, technology and expertise at their disposal.

Burglar raises the same old tired questions with the same old tired answers: some people stand to profit from movies like this, so they get in and out as fast as they can, then take the money and run.

—Kate Rushin



Whoopi Goldberg & Bob Goldthwaite

A Singer and Swingers

The next weekend (April 10-11) could be a busy one for gay and lesbian music enthusiasts in Boston. Connoisseurs of more classical genres will be excited to learn of the world premiere of "Songs from Running Water," a composition by Ron Lambe, an editor of the gay men's magazine, RFD. The concert is presented by tenor/countertenor Richard Strange and pianist Jonathan Goldberg who will perform other 20th century songs and poems by gay men. The program is scheduled for both Friday and Saturday nights.

Saturday night also offers a different bill of fare with a dance concert by the Freedom Trail Band, "Feeling So Gay!" This will be the premiere performance by the Freedom Swing Band and Freylachs, a Klezmer ensemble. Polkas, swing, folk, waltzes and pop tunes will be on the music stands. Swing lessons will be offered at 8:30 p.m. See the calendar for details on both these concerts.

—Loie Hayes

Calendar compiled by Terri L. Rutter

GayCommunity News

business guide

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